

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

2018-Oct-17

Attendees

Executive Committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair); Jack Johnson, Doug Greenfield , Adam MacNeill, Scott Smith

APD/COBWEB: Neil Simard

Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner

Rod Holland, Muris Kobaslija, Doug Mayo-Wells, Stephan Miller

Doug Mayo-Wells taking minutes, will send to Dan Amstutz and Erin Zwirko

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1. Greetings/Approval of previous minutes

Doug, Muris recommended for executive board vacancies
 Motion to approve amended August minutes; approved
 Postponed September approval to next month.
 Minutes should be sent to Daniel & Mary Muszynski

2. COBWEB (Cops on Bicycles With Education for Bicyclists)

Officer Simard
 Need better signage at Lake St, otherwise going well
 New green lane painting reduces confusion
 Single bike accidents due to root heaves - some are painted orange. 2 ambulance rides required

3. Bus lanes on Massachusetts Ave

Started last tuesday, 6am-9am, running thru nov 9, being going well (with some tweaks)
 Dedicated lane works well
 Some confusion about signal/lane changes at light on first day
 Jim Feeney (Asst Town manager) looking at Waze portal data - can compare current vs. historical
 8 min slower last Tues, 5 min slower last Wed, normal by end of week (but need to verify) [using 8:30am driving time as metric]
 Cyclists reportedly enjoying lane from Varnum St to Rt 16
 Right-turn-only lane reduces conflict
 Difficulties w/ moving bus stop at Lake st - T signage confusion; decided that bus stop move to in front of Little Q Hot Pot will be permanent
 Anecdotal volunteers talking to bus riders report they are happy, even exuberant
 A few complaints from drivers, still some business owner concerns (mostly w/r/t parking)
 T is collecting ridership data
 Stantec (consultant) analyzing data - looking at multimodal activity - showing amount of ppl crossing pkwy
 East bound traffic: cars 50%, bus 42%, bike 5%, ~3% walking
 Anecdotal positive experience of signal changes; expect signal changes will be permanent
 100K grant to fund pilot, ongoing cost TBD

Next public forum on Nov 14

Running survey to get bus rider input (target sample size several hundred)

Everett is evaluating similar bus lane (1.5 mile stretch) for permanence options

Officers enforcing, still using cone placement [in Everett]

4. TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) update

Bus pilot - anecdotal Friday 8 drizzly, observed 5 min vehicle backup - great for bike, right turning traffic a bit confused about when to get over into right lane

How well will it work w/o police presence?

For first few days police actively managing traffic entering from side streets

Police discussing making Boulevard Rd 1-way (away from Mass Ave), directing traffic to Lafayette or Thorndike instead. (Used temporary barrier during pilot)

5. 25th Anniversary Celebration debrief

Aeronaut beer worked well

Went reasonably well - Some pictures in press, Tom Fortmann (community advocate from Lexington) reportedly pleased

Haikus - maybe not as many installed as planned, stencil stock came in late. Observed new Haiku installation conflicting with previous antonyms installation

Cost tbd from Cicely

Sold ~20 t-shirts

Re Alan McLennan video - Glenn Koenig still hasn't converted video (or been paid we think) for posting to YouTube

Historical note:

3 people Tom Fortmann (Lex citizen advocate), Alan McLennan in Town of Arlington, Cathy Buckley Lewis (State) were key to moving Minuteman bikeway forward

RR stopped service ~1976 (was only 1 pax train/day) - Formerly 10 depots where there are 2 now (Lexington and Bedford)

<http://minutemanbikeway.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/railwaytobikeway1846-2018.pdf>

6. Town day debrief

Does the bikeway map need an update? Not many left, and Arlington Center intersection doesn't reflect recent changes?

How to fund? Local corp sponsor or some funding available?

Could Ali Carter (Economic Dev Coordinator) help?

Lexington probably has current map source files.

Could update online, worry about printing later.

7. Tri-town

Bedford agreed to host - this year, maybe Nov/Dec

Terry Gleason (liaison from Bedford), Peggy Enders (liaison from Lexington)

Agenda items: signage, map, speed limits, Historic commission restrictions

8. Bike share update

Daniel shared industry update, Newton report, Arlington Stats

Expecting to extend contract

Anecdotal - Lime may often under-report trip distance

Dockless - things move often so totals in communities are hard to assess, but allocation upped from 150 to 300, staying around 200

Reduced number through winter

Before winter storms (hopefully) will garage

9. Planking on bridge to Alewife (past Rt 2)

Bolts where bollards were, planking, lumps - how best to address

Should use Town Request answer feature - gets a paper trail assigned

This is more complicated than filling a pothole

Is MBTA right-of-way an issue (underground storage)?

Need to emphasize potential for harm (maintenance issue)

Related: Trader Joe's crossing signage issue

Would likely not qualify for pedestrian crosswalk because distance is too short

May need dual signs - for cyclists to slow and for pedestrians to look (some peds may have reduced visual acuity or mobility)

Crosswalk might invite ppl to run across without looking, could set weird precedent - maybe some non-crosswalk thing?

10. Massbikes education program

Anecdotal: 5th grader rides to Hardy

League of American Bicyclists - class for kids

Arlington community education - can we work to offer bike safety course

Massbike has one that they run -

Gibbs school has - all of 6th grade, so maybe an opportunity

Safe Routes to School - historically pedestrian focused, opportunity to expand to bike

Shoji Takahashi, parent volunteer- organized Stratton walk to school day - wants to work with Massbike to do something at Stratton, invite other schools?

Brian Ristuccia also interested in school education
Formerly informal policy to not encourage kids riding to school, but shift since.
Cost - who would pay? Safe Routes at state level, maybe?

11. Facebook

1. many very recent comments on lake street
2. unanswered messages from 2103 - arlington side guard policy - nothing in Town, but movement in Boston - thing on truck to prevent right hook/underwheel fatality
aerodynamic as well as safety
some on municipal vehicles
ABAC supports, advocates state/federal action

12. Forming "Friends of Bikeway" citizen advocacy group

Got more names at Ecofest, Townday, 25th anniv.
Town perspective: why, what does town not do? Signs, can't get CPA funding from Town.
Weed/trash removal, fundraising. Lights? Benches? Bike racks? And a less cycle-centric perspective vs ABAC.
How would DPW coordinate with volunteers, amenities that DPW would not maintain.
Clif maybe to take point

13. new abac mailing list?

broadcast or discussion?
use something like mailchimp?

14. Annual Social date and subject

Venues to consider
Common ground - nice room, a bit expensive
New bar at Lake St - common room
Elks by Spy pond - large room, bar, not sure about AV, would need to cater in food
Scott Mullen (ex Hubway) to talk about Lime etc. Raffle for Lime discount?
Sat Nov 3 - Cam mobility thing uber/lyft/blue bike etc
night riding clinic? winter cycling?

15. Next meeting

BRT forum Nov 14

Nov 28? (Wed after Tkgvng)- need to secure room

Get dates for 2019 to Daniel A.

16. Transportation Plan for Town

beyond Town Master plan

cover as many topics as possibly - multi modal

Master Plan + Complete Streets as starting point?

consultant - need to get budget to Town Meeting (Jan deadline for warrant article)

e.g., access to bikeway, schools, other towns - what are the town goals, values for future of town - as opposed to piecemeal approach

17. other matters

keep bikeway access to high school in view for plan

map/track root heaves for dpw

- maybe wait til spring

Selectman Clarissa Rowe - working on bike trails east of here - money to put trails in, but not fix/maintain